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# JUDGE TORRES

Brad D. Rose (BR-2740) Dvan Finguerra-DuCharme (DF-9228) Madelon A. Gauthier (MG-4687) Ryan S. Klarberg (RK-4719) Pryor Cashman LLP 7 Times Square New York, New York 10036

Attorneys for Plaintiffs Kanye West and Mascotte Holdings, Inc.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

KANYE WEST and MASCOTTE HOLDINGS, INC.,

Plaintiffs,

- against -

0DAYCOINS.COM, COINYE-EXCHANGE.COM, NEWCHG.COM, AMAZON.COM, INC., JANE DOES 1 through 50, JOHN DOES 1 through 50, FNU LNU a/k/a JONNY BRAVO, and DOGECOIN,

Defendants.

Civil Action No.

COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs Kanye West and Mascotte Holdings, Inc. (collectively, "Mr. West" or "Plaintiffs"), by their attorneys Pryor Cashman LLP, allege as follows against Defendants Odaycoins.com, Newchg.com, Coinye-exchange.com, Amazon.com, Inc., Jane Does 1 through 50 (the "Contributory Defendants"), John Does 1 through 50 (the "Defendants"), FNU LNU a/k/a Jonny Bravo and Dogecoin:

# NATURE OF ACTION

This is an action for willful trademark infringement, unfair competition, dilution 1. and right of publicity violations, among a score of other blatant statutory and common law violations. Defendants have willfully and admittedly traded upon the goodwill and notoriety of Kanye West, one of the most famous entertainers and brand names in the world. Without hesitation, Defendants have usurped Mr. West's name and likeness for the sole purpose of propping up the perceived "value" of the Defendants' "digital coin mine" and its "cryptocurrency." In interviews with the press, Defendants brazenly admit that they adopted the marks COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE to directly associate their newly minted cryptocurrency with Mr. West. For example, Defendants have publicly stated that: (i) they "chose to represent Kanye because he is and always has been a trendsetter, and he's always keeping things unique;" and (ii) they were "really not sure how Kanye [was] gonna react." Moreover, Defendants cowardly remained anonymous because "[Kanye West] really isn't someone we want to piss off" and that they would "love if Kanye named dropped 'Coinye'... We don't want to pay him off to name check us, but it'd be sick if he does so." Defendants also boldly asserted that "Anarcho-capitalism is coming, it can't be stopped. Whether it has a symbol that looks like a dollar, a dog, or a cartoon picture of a rapper, it's all the same thing." True and correct copies of online articles quoting Defendants are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

On January 7, 2014, Defendants had an initial public offering of a "block" of cryptocurrency called, interchangeably, COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE on their website located at <coinyeco.in>. Although Defendants could have chosen any name for their cryptocurrency, they deliberately chose to trade upon the goodwill associated with Mr. West by adopting names that are admitted plays on his name. Mr. West has been inextricably tied to Defendants' cryptocurrency, as practically every online article and blog post about the COINYE WEST currency mentions Mr. West and/or displays a photograph of Mr. West.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Cryptocurrency" or "bitcoins" is a digitized monetary exchange not tied to a specific country or centralized bank. The value is determined by supply and demand – it only has value if consumers "mine" the currency and exchanges trade it.

With each day that passes, Mr. West's reputation is irreparably harmed by the continued use of the COINYE WEST, COINYE and/or COYE marks in connection with Defendants' goods and services. Defendants have admittedly and willfully infringed upon the KANYE WEST mark and consumers are likely to mistakenly believe that Mr. West is the source of these digital coins. In fact, consumers are actually confused and mistakenly believe that Mr. West has launched the COINYE WEST cryptocurrency as reflected in dozens of tweets posted on Twitter:

Samantha Grossman @sam grossman 2 Jan:

Forget Bitcoin, because Kanye West now has a cryptocurrency and obviously it's called Coinye West

Romesh Dodangoda @longwaveromesh 2 Jan: Kanye West now has a currency!

Christopher Hudson @chrishudsonjr 2 Jan:

Move over #Bitcoin, @kanyewest now has his own cryptocurrency called @CoinyeWest

Andrew Harris @amharris26 2 Jan:

Interest rates are at an all-time low. RT <u>@obwax</u> Kanye West has his own cryptocurrency and it's called Coinye West

Chase Graves @everettchase 2 Jan:

Move over bitcoin, <u>@kanyewest</u> is about to create the greatest digital currency of all time. Introducing: <u>@CoinyeWest</u>.

Mathew Ingram @mathewi 2 Jan:

shark = jumped MT @cschweitz: @KanyeWest now has his own cryptocurrency, and it's called Coinye West

Candace Jackson @candace jackson 2 Jan:

Kanye West is getting his money right, launching his own bitcoininspired cryptocurrency. It's called Coinye West

Eric Andersen @eric\_andersen 2 Jan:

Srsly? <u>@kanyewest</u> creates his own cryptocurrency, names it Coinye West, on Twitter at @CoinyeWest

Ashley Codianni @AshleyCodianni 2 Jan:

Forget #Bitcoin, lemme get some Coinye West --> Kanye West now has his own cryptocurrency

Joshua Topolsky @joshuatopolsky 2 Jan:

Kanye West Bitcoin clone to launch soon. Coinye West!

Pat McKlindon @PatMcPSU 2 Jan:

Speaking of "coining" and wordplay. Kanye West just made his own version of BitCoin and named it "Coinye West"

Noah Hirsch @noahsh2 2 Jan:

Is Kanye serious? He's staring his own online currency like bit-coin. It's called Coinye-West

Marxs @marxsismo 2 Jan:

Kanye West gets his own digital currency, and it's called Coinye West // Bigger than Yeezus

Francisco Dao @TheMan 2 Jan:

Bitcoin is FINISHED!!! - Kanye West now has his own cryptocurrency and it's called Coinye West

West Coast Sound @LAWeeklyMusic 2 Jan:

All about the new Kanye West currency, which is like Bitcoin but called CoinYe

Gavin Millard @gmillard 2 Jan:

Kanye West Now Has His Own Cryptocurrency and It's Called Coinye West, WTF.

BBC Radio 1Xtra @1Xtra 5 Jan:

Oh Yeezus. Not even kidding you @kanyewest is going to have his own CURRENCY, the "Coinye West"

Simon Krätschmer @Bimon 6 Jan:

The cryptocoin to end them all: "Coiny West" - the Kayne West Coin

These are just a sampling of the tweets and evidence of actual confusion to date. See infra at ¶ 55 (additional tweets evidencing actual confusion). Accordingly, for the reasons set forth herein, the Defendants must be held accountable for these egregious, willful and wanton activities.

### **PARTIES**

2. Plaintiff Kanye West is a citizen and resident of the State of New York.

- 3. Plaintiff Mascotte Holdings, Inc. is a California corporation with its principal place of business in New York, New York.
- 4. Defendant Odaycoins.com operates a digital currency exchange located at <0daycoins.com> and is engaged in commerce in the United States including within this judicial district. There is no contact information provided on the <0daycoins.com> website. Defendant Odaycoins.com shields its contact information by using a privacy service provided by the registrar. Plaintiffs believe that information obtained in discovery will lead to the identification of contact information for Defendant Odaycoins.com.
- 5. Upon information and belief, Defendant Coinye-exchange.com operates a digital currency exchange located at <coinye-exchange.com> and is engaged in commerce in the United States including within this judicial district. There is no contact information provided on the <coinye-exchange.com> website. Defendant Coinye-exchange.com shields its contact information by using a privacy service provided by the registrar. Plaintiffs believe that information obtained in discovery will lead to the identification of contact information for Defendant Coinye-exchange.com.
- 6. Defendant Newchg.com operates a digital currency exchange located at <newchg.com> and is engaged in commerce in the United States including within this judicial district. The only contact information provided on the <newchg.com> website is an email address of rozenbal@emeto.eu. Defendant Newchg.com shields its contact information by using a privacy service provided by the registrar. Plaintiffs believe that information obtained in discovery will lead to the identification of contact information for Defendant Newchg.com.

- 7. Defendant Amazon.com, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Seattle, Washington. Amazon.com, Inc. does business in this district through its day-to-day operations and through its highly-interactive website.
- 8. The true names and identifies of Defendants Jane Does 1-50 ("Jane Does Defendants") are unknown to Plaintiffs. The Jane Does Defendants include, but are not limited to: servers, web host companies, cryptocurrency exchanges, cryptocurrency "mining" service providers, cryptocurrency payment processors, vendors of cryptocurrency, operators of cryptocurrency "wallets", retailers accepting and/or facilitating the exchange of cryptocurrency, marketers promoting cryptocurrency, operators of cryptocurrency ledgers, "miners" of cryptocurrency, their respective web hosts, registrars and servers and each of their heirs, executors, administrators, successors, licensees, assigns, subsidiaries, parents, affiliates, divisions, co-venturers, partners, officers, directors, employees, agents, shareholders, managers, business managers, accountants, attorneys, representatives, consultants and any and all other persons, corporations or other entities acting under the supervision, direction, control or on behalf of any of the foregoing who make use of the COINYE WEST, COINYE and/or COYE marks.
- 9. Upon information and belief, Defendant FNU LNU a/k/a Jonny Bravo ("Bravo") is a programmer for the <coinyecasino.com> and <coinyecasino.l8.lv> websites. Bravo is engaged in commerce in the United States including within this judicial district. The only contact information provided on the <coinyecasino.com> website is an email address of support@coinyecasino.com. Bravo shields his contact information by using a privacy service provided by the registrar. Plaintiffs believe that information obtained in discovery will lead to the identification of contact information for Bravo.

- 10. Upon information and belief, Defendant Dogecoin ("Dogecoin") is the operator. registrant and/or host of the following websites: <minecoinye.com>, <coinyemining.com>, <coinyegames.com>, <coinyewallet.com>, <coinyestore.com>, <buyesinyes.com>, <buyesinye.net>, <buy-coinye.com>, <br/>betcoinye.com>, <coinyespin.com>, <coinyeroulette.com>, <coinyegambling.com>, <coinyepoker.com>, <coinye-dice.com>, <coinyedice.com>, <getcoinye.com>, <coinyeshop.com>, <freecoinye.com>, and <fuckcoinye.com>. Dogecoin is engaged in commerce in the United States including within this judicial district. There is no contact information provided on the above-referenced websites. Dogecoin shields its contact information by using a privacy service provided by the registrar. The only contact information provided from the Whois report is: dogecoincom@obscure.me. Plaintiffs believe that information obtained in discovery will lead to the identification of contact information for Dogecoin.
- 11. The true names and identities of Defendants named herein as John Does 1 through 50 are unknown to Plaintiffs. Upon information and belief, Defendants operate Internet websites located at <coinyewest.com>, <coinyeco.in>, <coinyefaucet.com>, <coinyechain.info>, <coinyecoin.org>, <coinyecoin.com> and <buycoinye.com>. Defendants are engaged in commerce in the United States including within this judicial district. The only contact information provided on the websites are the following email addresses: coinyewest@gmail.com; contact@buycoinye.com; and coinyecoin@outlook.com. Defendants also shield their contact information by using a privacy service through the registrars. Plaintiffs believe that information obtained in discovery will lead to the identification of each Defendant's true names and will permit Plaintiffs to amend this Complaint to state the same.

# JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 12. Jurisdiction is proper in this Court pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1121 and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1125, 1332, 1338(a) and 1367, because the action involves claims arising under the Lanham Act and related state law claims.
- 13. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants and Contributory Defendants because they are doing business in New York, the claims at issue arise out of their transaction of business and/or supplying goods and services directed to consumers residing in New York. These activities fall within the long-arm statute of the State of New York, CPLR § 302(a)(1).
- 14. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because all Defendants and Contributory Defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction in this District because they are transacting business and committing tortious acts within the State of New York and this District.

## FACTS GIVING RISE TO THIS ACTION

# A. Plaintiff Kanye West's Fame and Success

15. Mr. West is an internationally renowned musical artist, performer, media company owner, inventor, songwriter, producer, film director and fashion designer. Mr. West first rose to fame as a producer for Roc-A-Fella Records, where he achieved recognition in 2001 for his work on Jay-Z's album *The Blueprint*, as well as on hit singles for musical artists including Alicia Keys, Ludacris and Janet Jackson. To date, Mr. West has released seven full-length studio albums, and has sold over 30 million digital songs in the United States, making him one of the best-selling digital artists of all-time.

- 16. Mr. West's first five albums, all of which have gone platinum, have received numerous awards, including twenty-one Grammy® Awards. Mr. West was ranked by *Billboard* magazine as one of the top 10 music producers of the decade, and was ranked third in BET's "Top Ten Rappers of the 21st Century" list. These are just a few of the industry awards and accolades that Mr. West has earned.
- 17. Mr. West's talent and notoriety is recognized around the world. He has been named one of the 100 most influential people by *Time* magazine, and *Forbes* routinely lists Mr. West as one of the most successful people in the world. Mr. West is credited with refocusing rap from hardcore-gangster themes to more personal messages. Mr. West's themes and styles have had a major impact on new artists such as Drake, Kid Cudi and Lupe Fiasco, and he is recognized as transforming the hip hop industry making it more accessible to the public at large.
- 18. In 2013, Mr. West released *Yeezus*, his sixth studio album, which debuted at number one on the Billboard 200. *Yeezus* sold 327,000 copies in its first week of release and topped the charts of 30 other countries, including the United Kingdom and Australia. Within months of its release, the *Yeezus* album was certified platinum by the RIAA.
- 19. Mr. West's Yeezus album was praised as the "Best Album of 2013" by multiple news sources, including, but not limited to, Time Magazine, NPR, Complex, MTV, Entertainment Weekly and The New York Post. The album was described as "transformative" by MTV stating that Yeezus "has dominated the discussion for the majority of the year" and is "the most confrontational, controversial and confounding release of 2013." Google even named Yeezus the album of the year and offered a limited number of free downloads to subscribers. True and correct copies of these rankings are attached hereto as Exhibit B.

- 20. His notoriety expands well beyond the world of music, and Mr. West sets trends for everything he touches. He has launched his own clothing lines, designed sneakers with major footwear companies, and even designed high-end shoe lines for Louis Vuitton and Giuseppe Zanotti. Mr. West has also appeared in several films and television programs.
- 21. Mr. West is the source of widespread unsolicited media attention wherever he goes. He has adorned the cover of dozens of magazines and has been the subject of hundreds of articles including in *The New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*, *Spin*, *Details*, *GQ*, *Time*, *Vibe*, *Complex*, among many others. Indeed, Mr. West has also been interviewed hundreds of times on television and on the radio over the past decade.
- 22. Few artists have acquired the fame achieved by Mr. West. The widespread unsolicited media attention that Mr. West receives on a daily basis has made Mr. West a household name.

# B. Plaintiffs' Use of KANYE WEST® and Other Trademarks

- 23. Plaintiffs have used the KANYE WEST mark in connection with a wide variety of goods and services since at least as early as February 2004. Plaintiffs own numerous federal trademark registrations for the KANYE WEST mark throughout the world including six in the United States.
- 24. Specifically, Mr. West owns U.S. trademark registrations for the KANYE WEST® mark for the following goods and services: Class 9 musical sound recordings; audio-visual recordings, namely, compact discs, tape cassettes, audio cassettes, audio tapes, audio discs, records, CD-Roms, video tapes, video cassettes, video discs, DVDs, DATs, MP3s, and laser discs, all featuring music; downloadable musical sound recordings; downloadable video recordings featuring music; and sunglasses (Reg. No. 3,648,799); Class 16 posters, photographic

prints and photographs (Reg. No. 3,648,800); Class 25 clothing, namely, t-shirts, tank tops, and sweat shorts (Reg. No. 3,648,801); Class 26 ornamental novelty buttons (Reg. No. 3,648,802); Class 35 on-line ordering services and on-line retail store services, electronic retailing services via computers, and retail store services available through computer communications, all of the aforesaid featuring recorded product, music related items, clothing and accessories therefor, printed promotional matter such as posters, books and publications, novelty items and ornaments (Reg. No. 3,648,803); and Class 41 music composition and transcription for others; entertainment in the nature of a live musical performer, musical band or musical group; entertainment in the nature of live performances by a musical artist, musical group or musical band; entertainment in the nature of visual and audio performances by a musical artist, musical group and musical band; entertainment, namely, live music concerts; entertainment, namely, personal appearances by a musician, musical group or musical band; entertainment services, namely, providing a web site featuring musical performances, musical videos, photographs, and other multimedia materials; entertainment services, namely, providing prerecorded music, all online via a global computer network; and entertainment in the nature of traveling tours featuring music (Reg. No. 3,648,804). True and accurate copies of the U.S. registrations for the KANYE WEST mark are attached hereto as Exhibit C.

- 25. Mr. West also owns several pending U.S. trademark applications, including, but not limited to, Serial Nos. 86/052,406, 86/052,382, 86/052,394, 86/052,418, 86/052,376, and 86/052,433 for the CLOTHING BY KANYE WEST mark.
- 26. The KANYE WEST brand is a strong commercial success. In particular, goods and services offered for sale in connection with the KANYE WEST mark have generated sales in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Mr. West is immensely popular with the general public as

evidenced by, *inter alia*, his over 10.1 million Twitter followers, over 13 million "likes" for his Facebook page, and a regularly updated extensive Wikipedia page dedicated to him.

27. Mr. West has invested significantly in creating, maintaining and promoting the goodwill associated with the KANYE WEST mark. Mr. West and his media, Internet and fashion partners have spent millions of dollars advertising and promoting goods and services offered in connection with the KANYE WEST mark throughout the world. In addition to traditional advertising, Mr. West markets and promotes his products and services through social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

As a result of Mr. West's extensive sales, advertising and promotional efforts, and his consistent production of high quality goods and services, the KANYE WEST mark is famous and has garnered goodwill of incalculable value. The KANYE WEST mark is recognized and relied upon by the consuming public as indicating one source: Mr. West.

## C. The Advent of Digital Cryptocurrency

29. "Bitcoin," as used herein, is a descriptive term for digital currency that uses cryptography to control the production and exchange of money. It is a decentralized currency that does not have a bank, government or a central issuer. Instead, Bitcoin operates as a peer-to-peer network to control the creation and issuance of new "bitcoins," regulate transactions of the virtual currency and monitor the security of the Bitcoin network.<sup>2</sup> Bitcoin is denominated a "virtual currency" not backed by metal or paper, but is the result of a cryptographic process that applies computational power to decipher chains of unique computer code. These chains of codes are then issued as a block of twenty-five bitcoins and can be exchanged, purchased and sold for non-virtual currency such as U.S. dollars or Euro. Bitcoins have market value because of their

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Typically bitcoin currency is spelled with lowercase while Bitcoin capitalized refers to the protocol and transaction network.

scarcity: the amount of bitcoins that will be produced is limited according to a pre-determined mathematical algorithm. The trading price of bitcoins has fluctuated from \$80 in July 2013 to a high of \$1100 in December 2013. Currently, the value of a new bitcoin is approximately \$1000. As of November 2013, there were approximately 12 million bitcoins in existence, resulting in a total market capitalization of the currency in excess of \$10 billion.

- 30. The Bitcoin peer-to-peer network allows users to access an open-source computer program to which they may apply computational programs and hefty computing power to compete to solve difficult mathematical problems. The solution to one of these complex problems, or the cracking of the code, results in the reward of a newly "minted" bitcoin issued to the individual who processed that search. Bitcoin currency is produced by these "miners" who use powerful computers to sort through this mathematical space searching for numbers that fit the algorithm. This process is called "mining," likening the computational quest to a gold miner searching for a vein within a physical mine. The work the computers do can be viewed in parallel to guessing at a lottery number: the faster the searching computers run, the better chance of guessing the right number and winning the coins. Bitcoin mining can be done on home computers, but as the value and interest in the currency has increased, a virtual mining industry using powerful multi-million dollar computers has emerged.
- 31. Since using an individual computer may take months to solve the block to generate bitcoins, individuals may join groups known as "mining pools" to collectively work to solve the blocks and distribute rewards (bitcoins) based on the work contributed. Once mined, miners and users may store their bitcoins in a bitcoin wallet. Bitcoin wallets currently consist of four types: (1) software wallet, which is located on a computer; (2) mobile wallet, which is located on a mobile device; (3) a digital wallet, that is hosted by an online service provider that

hosts bitcoins; or (4) a paper wallet, that consists of the public and private keys on printed paper that is stored offline.

- 32. Bitcoin uses a public-key cryptography, in that it uses a "public key" which is a unique address and a "private key" which is the unique identifier of that address, or a signature for the bitcoin holder. If this private key is lost, a bitcoin is lost forever. To perform a bitcoin transaction, the public key assigned to the bitcoin address is signed by the private key. The public key is published to the blockchain, which records all transactions on the bitcoin network, and miners verify that the public key and private key are associated with the bitcoin address.
- 33. Bitcoins can be purchased and traded through various web exchanges, such as Cryptsy and Mt. Gox, whereby a user exchanges a bitcoin with a fiat currency (also known as a government backed currency like U.S. dollars or Euro) or vice-versa, or exchanges between bitcoins and other digital currencies known as "alt-currencies." Alt currencies use similar open-source software but distinct mining protocols and algorithms to generate new and different cryptocurrencies. The exchanges allow for investors to hedge on the bitcoin and alt currency value and miners enter the race to earn more of the ever-dwindling amount of bitcoin in the universe banking on an increase in their value.
- 34. Bitcoin was the first of the decentralized peer-to-peer network protocols called a cryptocurrency and is known as the gold standard. Other competing cryptocurrencies using similar open-source software but distinct mining protocols and algorithms have followed Bitcoin in the past few years. These competitors view the success and rapid increase in value of bitcoin and are speculating on the currency's potential for a larger retail component.
- 35. Because the code that underpins bitcoin is under an open-source license, any individual with programming knowledge may become a miner, accessing the code to alter its

aspects to create an entirely new currency, for free. There are over 150 new digital currencies attempting to compete with Bitcoin, some in earnest and some as marketing ploys. As the creator of the mining algorithm, a new alt-currency founder can retain a certain amount of the newly minted currency in a process known as "pre-mining," essentially hoarding it until the value increases. It has been suggested that such networks create a "pump and dump" scheme luring investors to mine the new coins and profiting once the currency gains acceptance and is widely traded.

# D. <u>Defendants' Illegal Activities</u>

- 36. While bitcoins are not yet widely accepted as a form of retail payment, their appeal is gaining traction. For example, Overstock.com announced that it will start accepting the virtual currency this year. The entertainment industry, and the music industry in particular, is also beginning to recognize cryptocurrency as a form of payment. For example, Mel B, former Spice Girl and *X-Factor* judge, has announced that consumers may use bitcoins to purchase her new single, and Snoop Dogg recently tweeted that he wants his "next record available in bitcoin."
- 37. In a deliberate attempt to profit from the goodwill associated with Mr. West and the KANYE WEST brand and to "pump" up the value of its newly released cryptocurrency, Defendants are marketing, promoting, exploiting and/or mining cryptocurrency from websites located at <coinyewest.com>, <coinyeco.in>, <coinyefaucet.com>, <buycoinye.com>, <coinyecoin.org>, <coinyecoin.com>, and <coinyechain.info> (the "Infringing Websites"). In particular, on December 29, 2013, Defendants launched a website located at <coinyewest.com> and indicated their intention to offer a block of COINYE WEST coins for mining. The <coinyewest.com> domain was later redirected to <coinyeco.in> from which Defendants are currently marketing and promoting their alleged digital coins. Defendants have specifically

stated that their "goal with COINYE WEST is to make it easier for people to use cryptocurrency." See Ex. A.

- 38. The COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks are substantially similar in sight, sound, meaning and commercial impression to the KANYE WEST mark. Defendants use the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks to solicit investors and to falsely imply that Mr. West is affiliated with, associated with and/or has endorsed the COINYE WEST cryptocurrency. In fact, the developers have admitted that they intended to trade upon the goodwill associated with the KANYE WEST mark and with Mr. West personally when they adopted the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks. See ¶ 1 & Ex. A.
- 39. The Infringing Websites feature coins that resemble Mr. West wearing his signature shutter shades sunglasses below the COINYE mark:





- 40. The <coinyewest.com> website also unlawfully exploited videos embodying the masters and the underlying compositions of Mr. West's videos. The use of the image above and Mr. West's videos heighten the likelihood that consumers would mistakenly believe that Mr. West is associated with, has sponsored or is affiliated with Defendants' goods and services. These actions also dilute the famous KANYE WEST trademark and violate Mr. West's right of publicity.
- 41. In a further attempt to trade upon the goodwill of the KANYE WEST brand, and as additional evidence of Defendants' willfulness, Defendants emailed Plaintiffs' agents

requesting "[A] few second video of [Mr. West] telling us he wants coinyes." In the same January 4, 2014 email chain, Defendants wrote:

I'm not talking on any telephone and neither is anyone else involved. If you want to talk, contact me in email. We're anonymous and we're keeping it that way. Also, I'm not giving up a single millionth of a percent until i get some kind of verification that kanye actually knows a deal is being made. I still don't trust you, and I sure as hell don't trust lawyers.

A true and correct copy of this email exchange is attached hereto as Exhibit D.

- 42. In response to this inquiry, Mr. West's counsel sent a letter to Defendants demanding that they deactivate the Infringing Websites and refrain from any further infringing conduct. A true and accurate copy of the letter sent to Defendants, dated January 6, 2014, is attached hereto as Exhibit E. Instead of complying, Defendants published the demand letter on blogs and, upon information and belief, provided the letter to various media outlets, thereby making Defendants' conduct the subject of widespread media attention, including articles on the Wall Street Journal blog and the Time Magazine blog as well as online versions of national papers such as The New York Post. A true and correct copy of the media attention associated with Defendants' receipt of the demand letter is attached hereto as Exhibit F.
- A3. In willful disregard of Mr. West's intellectual property rights, of which Defendants were on actual notice, Defendants modified the <coinyewest.com> and <coinyeco.in> websites and rescheduled the launch date for the cryptocurrency from January 11, 2014 to January 7, 2014. A true and correct copy of the <coinyewest.com> website as of January 5, 2014 is attached hereto as Exhibit G, and a true and correct copy of the <coinyewest.com> website as of January 7, 2014 is attached hereto as Exhibit H. Upon information and belief, Defendants launched websites located at <coinyefaucet.com>, <coinyecoin.org> and <coinyecoin.com> to further market and promote their infringing activities.

- 44. Upon information and belief, Defendant Bravo launched the <coinyecasino.com> and <coinyecasino.l8.lv> websites to exploit the KANYE WEST trademark and the media attention the Defendants' infringing activities had received. Upon information and belief, the <coinyecasino.com> and <coinyecasino.l8.lv> websites allow users to participate in the online gambling using COINYE coins. On January 8, 2014, Plaintiffs' counsel sent Bravo a demand letter and, in response, Bravo tried to extort Mr. West stating in an email to counsel: "no further actions will be taken until a personal video on behalf of Kanye West is published in which he kindly asks us to remove roulette wheel based on his geopolitical, religious or any other possible insults, personality damages of any sort or inconveniences this roulette wheel has provided." A true and correct copy of this email is attached hereto as Exhibit I. Defendant Bravo has further stated to the news media that "the CoinyeCasino.com team is prepping even more games for Coinye users" and has sarcastically stated that it "would love to give [Plaintiffs' counsel] some house credit for a few free roulette spins." A true and correct copy of the article quoting Bravo is attached hereto as Exhibit J.
- 45. During the launch of the COINYE block, upon information and belief, consumers chose a pool where they accessed a miner program aptly called "COINYEMINER." Upon information and belief, coins mined by the individual users were automatically sent to their software wallet. Upon information and belief, 666,666 COINYE WEST coins were released for mining, a number that is closely associated with Mr. West and his *Yeezus* album.
- 46. While some nominal changes have been made to the Infringing Websites in response to the demand letter, given Mr. West's wide-ranging entrepreneurial accomplishments, consumers are still likely to believe, and upon information and belief, have mistakenly believed, that Mr. West is the source of COINYE WEST, COINYE and/or COYE coins or is affiliated

with, or has sponsored or endorsed the cryptocurrency. At the very least, Defendants' conduct dilutes the KANYE WEST mark by blurring and tarnishment.

47. Upon information and belief, Defendants' mine is unprofessional and has been criticized by the cryptocurrency community. Critics have noted that Defendants engaged in deceptive practices by engaging in unpublicized, pre-mining activity, such as hoarding a portion of the coins to themselves. Defendants' mine has also been called a "pump and dump" scam, with one commentator noting: "Coinye West coin is 100% fraud from the get go." An example of criticism that Defendants' mine has received is attached hereto as Exhibit K.

## E. Contributory Defendants' Illegal Activities

- 48. Upon information and belief, Defendant Odaycoins.com is a digital currency exchanger that has recognized Defendants' cryptocurrency and is allowing the cryptocurrency to be traded on its exchange. Upon information and belief, Defendant Odaycoins.com earns commissions when trades are made and is otherwise profiting from listing the currency on the <0daycoins.com> exchange. By recognizing the COINYE WEST, COINYE and/or COYE cryptocurrency, Defendant Odaycoins.com is engaging in willful trademark infringement and unfair competition by using the infringing marks on the website and is engaging in willful contributory trademark infringement and willful contributory unfair competition because without its actions, the cryptocurrency would have no value.
- 49. Upon information and belief, Defendant Coinye-exchange.com is a digital currency exchanger that has recognized and/or will recognize Defendants' cryptocurrency and is allowing and/or will allow the cryptocurrency to be traded on its exchange. Upon information and belief, Defendant Coinye-exchange.com.com earns and/or will earn commissions when trades are made and are otherwise profiting from listing the currency on the <coinye-

exchange.com> exchange. By recognizing the COINYE WEST, COINYE and/or COYE cryptocurrency, Defendant Coinye-exchange.com.com is engaging in willful trademark infringement and unfair competition by using the infringing marks on the website and is engaging in willful contributory trademark infringement and willful contributory unfair competition because without its actions, the cryptocurrency would have no value.

- Defendants Newchg.com is a digital currency exchanger that has recognized Defendants' cryptocurrency and is allowing the cryptocurrency to be traded on its exchange. Upon information and belief, Defendant Newchg.com earns commissions when trades are made and are otherwise profiting from listing the currency on the <newchg.com> exchange. By recognizing the COINYE WEST, COINYE and/or COYE cryptocurrency, Defendant Newchg.com is engaging in willful trademark infringement and unfair competition by using the infringing marks on the website and engaging in willful contributory trademark infringement and willful contributory unfair competition because without its actions, the cryptocurrency would have no value.
- 51. Before filing this action, Plaintiffs notified Defendant Newchg.com of Defendants' infringing activities and demanded that Defendant Newchg.com cease the operation, exchange, sale, transfer and/or purchase of COINYE cryptocurrency. A true and correct copy of the letter, dated January 8, 2014, is attached hereto as Exhibit L. While Defendant Newchg.com delisted the COINYE coins in an apparent response to the January 8, 2014 demand letter, Defendant Newchg.com has not formally responded to the letter.
- 52. Defendant Amazon.com, Inc. provides web hosting services for the <coinyeco.in> and <coinyewest.com> websites. Before filing this action, Plaintiffs notified Amazon.com of

Defendants' infringing activities and other violations. As of this filing date, Defendant Amazon.com has not deactivated the websites.

- and/or COYE cryptocurrency in their functions as servers, web host companies, cryptocurrency exchanges, cryptocurrency "mining" service providers, cryptocurrency payment processors, vendors of cryptocurrency, operators of cryptocurrency "wallets", retailers accepting and/or facilitating the exchange of cryptocurrency, marketers promoting cryptocurrency, operators of cryptocurrency ledgers and "miners" of cryptocurrency. Defendants have published Plaintiffs' letter demanding that Defendants cease all use of the marks COINYE WEST, COINYE and/or CONYE on the grounds that such use infringes and dilutes Mr. West's famous and distinctive trademark among other violations. The demand letter has been posted to dozens of websites and discussions thereof are widespread in national publications, among the online community and on social media. Upon information and belief, Jane Does Defendants 1 through 50, in wanton disregard of Plaintiffs' rights, have aided, abetted and assisted Defendants in their infringing activities by continuing to provide the services identified.
- 54. Upon information and belief, Dogecoin is the operator, registrant and/or host of the following websites that are utilizing and/or exploiting the COINYE WEST, COINYE, COYE marks: <minecoinye.com>, <coinyemining.com>, <coinyegames.com>, <coinyewallet.com>, <coinyestore.com>, <buycoinyes.com>, <buycoinye.net>, <buycoinye.com>, <buycoinye.com>, <buycoinyespin.com>, <coinyepoker.com>, <coinyespin.com>, <coinyepoker.com>, <coinyedice.com>, <getcoinye.com>, <coinyeshop.com>, <freecoinye.com>, and <fuckcoinye.com>.

# F. Plaintiffs Are Suffering Irreparable Harm

55. Consumers are likely to mistakenly believe that Mr. West is the source of the COINYE WEST, COINYE and/or COYE coins or is affiliated with, or has sponsored or endorsed the cryptocurrency. In fact, consumers are actually confused as reflected in tweets posted on Twitter:

Samantha Grossman @sam\_grossman 2 Jan:
Forget Bitcoin, because Kanye West now has a cryptocurrency and
obviously it's called Coinye West

Romesh Dodangoda @longwaveromesh 2 Jan: Kanye West now has a currency!

Christopher Hudson @chrishudsonjr 2 Jan:

Move over #Bitcoin, @kanyewest now has his own cryptocurrency called @CoinyeWest

Andrew Harris @amharris26 2 Jan:
Interest rates are at an all-time low. RT @obwax Kanye West has his own
cryptocurrency and it's called Coinye West

G-J van Rooyen @gvrooyen 2 Jan: Looks as if <u>@simondlr</u>'s prediction is still on track: Kanye West is launching a cryptocurrency

Chase Graves @everettchase 2 Jan:

Move over bitcoin, @kanyewest is about to create the greatest digital currency of all time. Introducing: @CoinyeWest.

Mathew Ingram @mathewi 2 Jan: shark = jumped MT @cschweitz: @KanyeWest now has his own cryptocurrency, and it's called Coinye West

Maya Baratz @mbaratz 2 Jan:
Well, Bitcoin and Dogecoin has been Kanye'd. Literally. Enter Coinye

Evelyn Rusli @EvelynRusli 2 Jan:
No. Folks, meet Coinye, Bitcoin has been Kanyed

Candace Jackson @candace\_jackson 2 Jan:
Kanye West is getting his money right, launching his own bitcoin-inspired cryptocurrency. It's called Coinye West

Eric Andersen @eric andersen 2 Jan:

Srsly? <u>@kanyewest</u> creates his own cryptocurrency, names it Coinye West, on Twitter at <u>@CoinyeWest</u>

Ashley Codianni @AshleyCodianni 2 Jan:

Forget #Bitcoin, lemme get some Coinye West --> Kanye West now has his own cryptocurrency

Joshua Topolsky @joshuatopolsky 2 Jan:

Kanye West Bitcoin clone to launch soon. Coinye West!

Larry Dignan @ldignan 2 Jan:

Latest sign of Bitcoin stupidity. Kanye West his own cryptocurrency Coinye West

Shaun Olarte @seanzyville 2 Jan:

Kanye Shows Up Obama By Getting His Face On Currency First: Coinye West Is The Newest Pseudo Bitcoin

Pat McKlindon @PatMcPSU 2 Jan:

Speaking of "coining" and wordplay. Kanye West just made his own version of BitCoin and named it "Coinye West"

Noah Hirsch @noahsh2 2 Jan:

Is Kanye serious? He's staring his own online currency like bit-coin. It's called Coinye-West

Marxs @marxsismo 2 Jan:

Kanye West gets his own digital currency, and it's called Coinye West // Bigger than Yeezus

Francisco Dao @TheMan 2 Jan:

Bitcoin is FINISHED!!! - Kanye West now has his own cryptocurrency and it's called Coinye West

West Coast Sound @LAWeeklyMusic 2 Jan:

All about the new Kanye West currency, which is like Bitcoin but called CoinYe

Gavin Millard @gmillard 2 Jan:

Kanye West Now Has His Own Cryptocurrency and It's Called Coinye West. WTF.

ST Communities @STCommunities 3 Jan:

.@kanyewest has new cryptocurrency named after him - Coinye West

CoinDesk @coindesk 3 Jan:

Flamboyant artist Kanye West now has had a digital currency named after him

BBC Radio 1Xtra @1Xtra 5 Jan:

Oh Yeezus. Not even kidding you <u>@kanyewest</u> is going to have his own CURRENCY, the "Coinye West"

Simon Krätschmer @Bimon 6 Jan:

The cryptocoin to end them all: "Coiny West" - the Kayne West Coin

A true and correct copy of the Twitter feed is attached hereto as Exhibit M.

56. Mr. West will suffer irreparable harm to his business reputation and goodwill associated with the brand because he has no control over the cryptocurrency. This is even more so here because the identities of Defendants are unknown, and they are luring consumers to purchase a digital currency through the use of marks that are substantially similar to the KANYE WEST mark and use of Mr. West's name and likeness.

- 57. Mr. West will also suffer irreparable harm because use of the COINYE WEST, COINYE and/or COYE marks dilutes the distinctiveness of the famous KANYE WEST mark.
- 58. Mr. West will also suffer irreparable harm because as the infringing coins are mined, they will enter the digital marketplace and may be nearly impossible to retrieve as they will reside on computers of anonymous users.

### FIRST CLAIM

(Violation of Right of Privacy and Publicity, New York Civil Rights Law § 51) (Against Defendants and Bravo)

- 59. Plaintiffs hereby repeat and reallege Paragraphs 1 through 58 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 60. Defendants and Bravo have used Mr. West's name, image and likeness within the State of New York for advertising and/or for the purpose of trade.

61. Defendants and Bravo's use of Mr. West's name, image and likeness has been without the written or oral authorization of Mr. West or anyone authorized by him to give such authorization.

62. Defendants and Bravo's use of Mr. West's name, image and likeness has caused injury to him in an amount to be proven at trial.

63. Defendants and Bravo's use of Mr. West's name, image and likeness in the manner described herein is forbidden and/or unlawful pursuant to Section 50 of New York Civil Rights Law.

64. Mr. West therefore demands exemplary damages under Section 51 of New York Civil Rights Law.

65. Furthermore, Section 51 of the New York Civil Rights Law provides a right to injunctive relief to restrain the unauthorized use of a person's name for purposes of advertising or trade purposes within New York State.

66. The acts of Defendants and Bravo have caused and are causing great and irreparable harm and damage to Mr. West, and unless permanently restrained and enjoined by this Court, such irreparable harm will continue.

67. Mr. West therefore demands that Defendants and Bravo be enjoined and restrained pursuant to Section 51 of the Civil Rights law of the State of New York from using Mr. West's name for advertising purposes or purposes of trade.

# SECOND CLAIM

(Federal Trademark Infringement, 15 U.S.C. § 1114) (Against Defendants, Odaycoins.com, Coinye-exchange.com, Newchg.com, Jane Does 1 through 50, and Bravo)

68. Plaintiffs hereby repeat and reallege Paragraphs 1 through 67 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

- 69. These defendants have used in commerce, without Plaintiffs' permission, the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks in a manner that is likely to cause confusion, mistake or deception with respect to Plaintiffs' KANYE WEST mark, and is likely to cause confusion or mistake and to deceive purchasers as to the affiliation, connection, approval, sponsorship or association of Plaintiffs and/or their goods, services and commercial activities, on the one hand, with these defendants and/or their respective goods, services or commercial activities, on the other hand.
- 70. These defendants' acts constitute infringement of the KANYE WEST mark under 15 U.S.C. § 1114.
- As a direct and proximate result of these defendants' wrongful acts, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer and/or are likely to suffer damage to their trademarks, business reputation and goodwill. These defendants will continue to use, unless restrained, the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks or marks confusingly similar to the KANYE WEST mark and will cause irreparable damage to Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law and are entitled to an injunction restraining these defendants, their respective officers, agents, and employees, and all persons acting in concert with these defendants, from engaging in further acts of infringement.
- 72. Plaintiffs are further entitled to recover from these defendants the actual damages that they sustained and/or are likely to sustain as a result of these defendants' wrongful acts.
- 73. Plaintiffs are further entitled to recover from these defendants the gains, profits and advantages that these defendants have obtained as a result of their wrongful acts.

74. Because of the willful nature of these defendants' wrongful acts, Plaintiffs' are entitled to an award of punitive damages under the common law, and treble damages and increased profits under 15 U.S.C. § 1117.

### THIRD CLAIM

# (Contributory Trademark Infringement) (Against Amazon.com, Inc. and Jane Does Defendants)

- 75. Plaintiffs hereby repeat and reallege Paragraphs 1 through 74 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 76. Defendants are engaging in infringing conduct including but not limited to the use of the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks in violation of the Lanham Act.
- 77. Amazon.com and Jane Does Defendants have deliberately disregarded Plaintiffs' counsel's notification of the Infringing Websites and have otherwise consciously avoided learning about the full extent of the infringing activity that is continuing on the Infringing Websites.
- 78. Amazon.com and Jane Does Defendants have materially encouraged, enabled, and contributed to the Infringing Websites by providing hosting services.
- 79. The acts of Amazon.com and Jane Does Defendants have caused and are causing great and irreparable harm and damage to Plaintiffs, and unless permanently restrained and enjoined by this Court such irreparable harm will continue.
- 80. As a direct and proximate result of Amazon.com and Jane Does Defendants' actions as stated herein, Plaintiffs have suffered damage to their reputation and damage to the goodwill associated with the KANYE WEST mark.

### FOURTH CLAIM

(Contributory Trademark Infringement)
(Against Odaycoins.com, Coinye-exchange.com, Newchg.com and Jane Does Defendants)

- 81. Plaintiffs hereby repeat and reallege Paragraphs 1 through 80 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 82. Defendants are engaging in infringing conduct including but not limited to the use of the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks in violation of the Lanham Act.
- 83. Odaycoins.com, Coinye-exchange.com, Newchg.com and Jane Does Defendants have deliberately disregarded Plaintiffs' counsel's notification of the Infringing Websites and has otherwise consciously avoided learning about the full extent of the infringing activity that is continuing on the Infringing Websites.
- 84. Upon information and belief, 0daycoins.com, Coinye-exchange.com, Newchg.com and Jane Does Defendants have materially encouraged, enabled, and contributed to the Infringing Websites by engaging in the operation, exchange, sale, transfer and/or purchase of COINYE cryptocurrency.
- 85. The acts of 0daycoins.com, Coinye-exchange.com, Newchg.com and Jane Does Defendants have caused and are causing great and irreparable harm and damage to Plaintiffs, and unless permanently restrained and enjoined by this Court, such irreparable harm will continue.
- 86. As a direct and proximate result of 0daycoins.com, Coinye-exchange.com, Newchg.com and Jane Does Defendants' actions as stated herein, Plaintiffs have suffered damage to their reputation and damage to the goodwill associated with the KANYE WEST mark.

### FIFTH CLAIM

(Federal Unfair Competition, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a))
(Against Defendants, Odaycoins.com, Coinye-exchange.com, Newchg.com,
Jane Does 1 through 50, and Bravo)

- 87. Plaintiffs hereby repeat and reallege Paragraphs 1 through 86 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 88. The COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks are substantially similar to Plaintiff West's given name, Kanye West, and his KANYE WEST trademark.
- 89. Consumers identify the mark KANYE WEST exclusively with Plaintiff Kanye West.
- 90. These defendants' conduct as alleged herein is likely to cause confusion and/or to deceive users and consumers as to the origin, sponsorship, affiliation, connection and/or association of Mr. West with these defendants' respective goods and/or services.
- 91. Mr. West does not now and has never sponsored or approved or authorized these defendants' use of the COINYE WEST, COINYE or COYE marks.
- 92. These defendants' conduct is willful and deliberate and done with the intent to unfairly commercially benefit from the goodwill association with Mr. West personally and the KANYE WEST brand name.
- 93. These defendants' unfair competition has caused and is causing great and irreparable harm and damage to Plaintiffs, and unless permanently restrained and enjoined by this Court such irreparable harm will continue.
- 94. As a direct and proximate result of these defendants' wrongful acts, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer and/or are likely to suffer damage to their trademarks, business reputation and goodwill. These defendants' will continue to use, unless restrained, the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks or marks confusingly similar to the KANYE

WEST mark and will cause irreparable damage to Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law and are entitled to an injunction restraining these defendants, their respective officers, agents, and employees, and all persons acting in concert with these defendants, from engaging in further acts of infringement.

- 95. Plaintiffs are further entitled to recover from these defendants the actual damages that they sustained and/or are likely to sustain as a result of these defendants' wrongful acts.
- 96. Plaintiffs are further entitled to recover from these defendants the gains, profits and advantages that these defendants have obtained as a result of their wrongful acts.
- 97. Because of the willful nature of these defendants' wrongful acts, Plaintiffs' are entitled to an award of punitive damages under the common law, and treble damages and increased profits under 15 U.S.C. § 1117.

### SIXTH CLAIM

(Contributory Unfair Competition)
(Against Amazon.com, Inc. and Jane Does Defendants)

- 98. Plaintiffs hereby repeat and reallege Paragraphs 1 through 97 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 99. The COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks are substantially similar to Plaintiff West's given name, Kanye West, and his KANYE WEST trademark.
- 100. Consumers identify the mark KANYE WEST exclusively with Plaintiff Kanye West.
- 101. Defendants' conduct as alleged herein is likely to cause confusion and/or to deceive users and consumers as to the origin, sponsorship, affiliation, connection and/or association of Mr. West with Defendants' goods and services.

102. Mr. West does not now and has never sponsored or approved or authorized Defendants' use of the COINYE WEST, COINYE or COYE marks.

103. Defendants' conduct is willful and deliberate and done with the intent to unfairly commercially benefit from the goodwill association with Mr. West personally and the KANYE WEST brand name.

104. Amazon.com and Jane Does Defendants have deliberately disregarded Plaintiffs' counsel's notification of the Infringing Websites and have otherwise consciously avoided learning about the full extent of the infringing activity that is continuing on the Infringing Websites.

105. Amazon.com and Jane Does Defendants have materially encouraged, enabled, and contributed to the Infringing Websites by providing hosting services.

106. The acts of Amazon.com and Jane Does Defendants have caused and are causing great and irreparable harm and damage to Plaintiffs, and unless permanently restrained and enjoined by this Court such irreparable harm will continue.

107. As a direct and proximate result of Amazon.com and Jane Does Defendants' actions as stated herein, Plaintiffs have suffered damage to their reputation and damage to the goodwill associated with the KANYE WEST mark.

# SEVENTH CLAIM

(Contributory Unfair Competition)

(Against Odaycoins.com, Coinye-exchange.com, Newchg.com and Jane Does Defendants)

108. Plaintiffs hereby repeat and reallege Paragraphs 1 through 107 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

109. The COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks are substantially similar to Plaintiff West's given name, Kanye West, and his KANYE WEST trademark.

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- 110. Consumers identify the mark KANYE WEST exclusively with Plaintiff Kanye West.
- 111. These defendants' conduct as alleged herein is likely to cause confusion and/or to deceive users and consumers as to the origin, sponsorship, affiliation, connection and/or association of Mr. West with these defendants' goods and/or services.
- 112. Mr. West does not now and has never sponsored or approved or authorized these defendants' use of the COINYE WEST, COINYE or COYE marks.
- 113. These defendants' conduct is willful and deliberate and done with the intent to unfairly commercially benefit from the goodwill association with Mr. West personally and the KANYE WEST brand name.
- 114. These defendants have deliberately disregarded Plaintiffs' counsel's notification of the Infringing Websites and have otherwise consciously avoided learning about the full extent of the infringing activity that is continuing on the Infringing Websites.
- 115. Upon information and belief, these defendants have materially encouraged, enabled, and contributed to the Infringing Websites by engaging in the operation, exchange, sale, transfer and/or purchase of COINYE cryptocurrency.
- 116. The acts of these defendants have caused and are causing great and irreparable harm and damage to Plaintiffs, and unless permanently restrained and enjoined by this Court such irreparable harm will continue.
- 117. As a direct and proximate result of these defendants' actions as stated herein, Plaintiffs have suffered damage to their reputation and damage to the goodwill associated with the KANYE WEST mark.

### **EIGHTH CLAIM**

(Violation of Anti-Cybersquatting Consumer Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(d))
(Against Defendants, Bravo and Dogecoin)

- 118. Plaintiffs hereby repeat and reallege Paragraphs 1 through 117 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
  - 119. Plaintiffs own all rights, title and interest in and to the KANYE WEST mark.
- 120. Upon information and belief, Defendants, Bravo and Dogecoin are the registrants of domains that are confusingly similar to Plaintiffs' distinctive and famous mark.
- 121. Upon information and belief, Defendants registered the Infringing Websites with the bad faith intent to profit as evidenced by, *inter alia*: (i) their use of COINYE in the domains in willful disregard of Plaintiffs' rights; (ii) the domains consist of a name that is associated with Plaintiffs; (iii) Defendants are using the domains to perpetuate willful trademark infringement; and (iv) Defendants' infringing activities are commercial.
- 122. Upon information and belief, Bravo registered <coinyecasino.com> and <coinyecasino.l8.lv> with the bad faith intent to profit as evidenced by, *inter alia*: (i) their use of COINYE in the domains in willful disregard of Plaintiffs' rights; (ii) the domains consist of a name that is associated with Plaintiffs; (iii) Bravo is using the domains to perpetuate willful trademark infringement; and (iv) Bravo's infringing activities are commercial.
- 123. Upon information and belief, Dogecoin registered <minecoinye.com>, <coinvemining.com>, <coinyegames.com>, <coinyewallet.com>, <coinvestore.com>, <buycoinyes.com>, <buycoinye.net>, <buy-coinye.com>, <betcoinye.com>, <coinyespin.com>, <coinveroulette.com>, <coinyegambling.com>, <coinyepoker.com>, <coinye-dice.com>, <coinyedice.com>, <getcoinye.com>, <coinyeshop.com>, <freecoinye.com>, and <fuckcoinye.com> with the bad faith intent to profit as evidenced by, inter alia: (i) its use of

COINYE in the domains in willful disregard of Plaintiffs' rights; (ii) the domains consist of a name that is associated with Plaintiffs; (iii) Dogecoin is using the domains to perpetuate willful trademark infringement; and (iv) Dogecoin's infringing activities are commercial.

- 124. Upon information and belief, Defendants and Dogecoin committed these acts alleged herein willfully and with the intent to confuse the public and to injure Plaintiffs.
- 125. The acts of Defendants, Bravo and Dogecoin have caused and are causing great and irreparable harm and damage to Plaintiffs, and unless permanently restrained and enjoined by this Court such irreparable harm will continue.
- 126. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants', Bravo's and Dogecoin's wrongful acts, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer and/or are likely to suffer damage to their trademarks, business reputation and goodwill. Defendants and Dogecoin will continue to use, unless restrained, the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks or marks confusingly similar to the KANYE WEST mark and will cause irreparable damage to Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law and are entitled to an injunction restraining Defendants, Bravo, Dogecoin, their respective officers, agents, and employees, and all persons acting in concert with Defendants, Bravo or Dogecoin, from engaging in further acts of infringement.
- 127. Plaintiffs are further entitled to recover from Defendants, Bravo and Dogecoin the actual damages that they sustained and/or are likely to sustain as a result of Defendants', Bravo's and Dogecoin's wrongful acts.
- 128. Plaintiffs are further entitled to recover from Defendants, Bravo and Dogecoin the gains, profits and advantages that Defendants, Bravo and Dogecoin have obtained as a result of their wrongful acts.

129. Because of the willful nature of Defendants', Bravo's and Dogecoin's wrongful acts, Plaintiffs' are entitled to an award of punitive damages under the common law, and treble damages and increased profits under 15 U.S.C. § 1117.

# **NINTH CLAIM**

(Federal Trademark Dilution, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(c))
(Against Defendants, Odaycoins.com, Coinye-exchange.com, Newchg.com,
Jane Does 1 through 50, and Bravo)

- 130. Plaintiffs hereby repeat and reallege Paragraphs 1 through 129 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 131. Plaintiffs used the KANYE WEST mark to identify their goods and services before these defendants began promoting and offering goods and/or services under, or otherwise using, the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks. The KANYE WEST mark is inherently distinctive and has acquired distinction through Plaintiffs' extensive, continuous and exclusive use of the mark.
- 132. The KANYE WEST mark is famous and distinctive within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1125(c)(1), and was famous before these defendants adopted the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks.
- 133. These defendants' use of the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks is likely to dilute the distinctive quality Plaintiffs' KANYE WEST mark in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1125(c).
- 134. These defendants' acts complained of herein are likely to damage Plaintiffs irreparably.
- 135. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law for such wrongs and injuries. The damage to Plaintiffs includes harm to their trademarks, goodwill and reputation that money cannot compensate. Plaintiffs are, therefore, entitled to a preliminary and permanent injunction

enjoining these defendants' use of the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks, or any marks dilutive of Plaintiffs' KANYE WEST mark in connection with the promotion, advertisement and sale of any goods, services or commercial activities by these defendants.

- 136. Plaintiffs are further entitled to recover from these defendants for the actual damages sustained by Plaintiffs as a result of these defendants' wrongful acts. Plaintiffs are presently unable to ascertain the full extent of the monetary damages they have suffered by reason of these defendants' acts of dilution.
- 137. Plaintiffs are further entitled to recover from these defendants the gains, profits and advantages these defendants have obtained as a result of their wrongful acts. Plaintiffs are presently unable to ascertain the extent of the gains, profits and advantages these defendants have realized by reason of these defendants' willful acts of dilution.
- 138. Because of the willful nature of these defendants' actions, Plaintiffs are entitled to all remedies available under 15 U.S.C. §§ 1117 and 1118, including, but not limited to, treble damages.

# TENTH CLAIM (Deceptive Acts and Practices, New York General Business Law § 349) (Against Defendants)

- 139. Plaintiffs hereby repeat and reallege Paragraphs 1 through 138 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 140. Upon information and belief, Defendants, without Mr. West's authorization or consent, and having knowledge of Plaintiffs' rights to the KANYE WEST mark, offer and/or will be offering goods for sale and/or rendering services on the Infringing Websites to the public in direct competition with Plaintiffs.

- 141. Upon information and belief, Defendants' use of the KANYE WEST mark and Mr. West's image and likeness is likely to cause and is causing confusion, mistake and deception among the general purchasing public as to the origin of the Infringing Websites, and is likely to deceive the public into believing that goods and/or services being offered for sale by Defendants originates from, is associated with, or is otherwise authorized by Mr. West.
- 142. Upon information and belief, Defendants' deceptive acts and practices involve public sales activities of a recurring nature.
- 143. The acts of Defendants have caused and are causing great and irreparable harm and damage to Plaintiffs, and unless permanently restrained and enjoined by this Court, such irreparable harm will continue.

### **ELEVENTH CLAIM**

(Dilution, New York Gen. Bus. L. § 360-l) (Against Defendants, Odaycoins.com, Coinye-exchange.com, Newchg.com, Jane Does 1 through 50, and Bravo)

- 144. Plaintiffs hereby repeat and reallege Paragraphs 1 through 143 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 145. Plaintiffs used the KANYE WEST mark to identify their goods and services before these defendants began promoting and offering goods and/or services under, or otherwise using, the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks. The KANYE WEST mark is inherently distinctive and has acquired distinction through Plaintiffs' extensive, continuous and exclusive use of the mark.
- 146. The KANYE WEST mark is famous and distinctive within the meaning of New York Gen. Bus. L. § 360-l, and was famous before these defendants adopted the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks.

- 147. These defendants' use of the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks is likely to dilute the distinctive quality Plaintiffs' KANYE WEST mark in violation of New York Gen. Bus. L. § 360-l.
- 148. These defendants' acts complained of herein are likely to damage Plaintiffs irreparably.
- 149. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law for such wrongs and injuries. The damage to Plaintiffs includes harm to their trademarks, goodwill and reputation that money cannot compensate. Plaintiffs are, therefore, entitled to a preliminary and permanent injunction enjoining these defendants' use of the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks, or any marks dilutive of Plaintiffs' KANYE WEST mark in connection with the promotion, advertisement and sale of any goods, services or commercial activities by these defendants.
- 150. Plaintiffs are further entitled to recover from these defendants for the actual damages sustained by Plaintiffs as a result of these defendants' wrongful acts. Plaintiffs are presently unable to ascertain the full extent of the monetary damages they have suffered by reason of these defendants' acts of dilution.
- 151. Plaintiffs are further entitled to recover from these defendants the gains, profits and advantages these defendants have obtained as a result of its wrongful acts. Plaintiffs are presently unable to ascertain the extent of the gains, profits and advantages these defendants have realized by reason of these defendants' willful acts of dilution.
- 152. Because of the willful nature of these defendants' actions, Plaintiffs are entitled to all remedies under New York General Business Law.

# TWELTH CLAIM (Unjust Enrichment) (Against All Defendants)

- 153. Plaintiffs hereby repeat and reallege Paragraphs 1 through 152 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 154. These defendants have benefited from the unlawful and infringing use of the KANYE WEST trademark and Mr. West's image and likeness because, upon information and belief, they have derived and/or will derive substantial revenue from the sale of goods and/or the rendering of services offered and/or promoted on the Infringing Websites through the use of Mr. West's name, image and likeness.
- 155. It would be against equity and good conscience to allow these defendants to retain the substantial revenue and profits they have realized and/or will realize through their blatantly unlawful use of Mr. West's name, image and likeness.
  - 156. These defendants have been unjustly enriched by its unlawful use of said name.
- 157. The acts of these defendants have caused and are causing great and irreparable harm and damage to Plaintiffs, and unless permanently restrained and enjoined by this Court, such irreparable harm will continue.
- 158. As a direct and proximate result of these defendants' actions as stated herein, Mr. West has suffered damage to his reputation and damage to the goodwill of the KANYE WEST trademark. Further, Plaintiffs are entitled to exemplary damages as a result of these defendants' malicious actions as described above.

### THIRTEENTH CLAIM

(Common Law Trademark Infringement)
(Against Defendants, Odaycoins.com, Coinye-exchange.com, Newchg.com,
Jane Does 1 through 50, and Bravo)

- 159. Plaintiffs hereby repeat and reallege Paragraphs 1 through 158 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 160. These defendants have used in commerce, without Plaintiffs' permission, the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks in a manner that is likely to cause confusion, mistake or deception with respect to Plaintiffs' KANYE WEST mark, and is likely to cause confusion or mistake and to deceive purchasers as to the affiliation, connection, approval, sponsorship or association of Plaintiffs and/or their goods, services and commercial activities, on the one hand, with these defendants and/or their goods, services or commercial activities, on the other hand.
- 161. These defendants' acts constitute infringement of the KANYE WEST mark in violation of the common law.
- 162. As a direct and proximate result of these defendants' wrongful acts, Plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer and/or are likely to suffer damage to their trademarks, business reputation and goodwill. These defendants will continue to use, unless restrained, the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks or marks confusingly similar to the KANYE WEST mark and will cause irreparable damage to Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law and are entitled to an injunction restraining these defendants, their respective officers, agents, and employees, and all persons acting in concert with these defendants, from engaging in further acts of infringement.
- 163. Plaintiffs are further entitled to recover from these defendants the actual damages that they sustained and/or are likely to sustain as a result of these defendants' wrongful acts.

164. Plaintiffs are further entitled to recover from these defendants the gains, profits and advantages that these defendants have obtained as a result of their wrongful acts.

165. Because of the willful nature of these defendants' wrongful acts, Plaintiffs' are entitled to an award of punitive damages under the common law.

# FOURTEENTH CLAIM

(Common Law Unfair Competition)
(Against Defendants, Odaycoins.com, Coinye-exchange.com, Newchg.com,
Jane Does 1 through 50, and Bravo)

- 166. Plaintiffs hereby repeat and reallege Paragraphs 1 through 165 of the Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 167. Plaintiffs have expended substantial time, resources and effort to develop and obtain a strong reputation in the marketplace and enormous goodwill in the KANYE WEST mark.
- 168. These defendants have infringed the KANYE WEST mark by using the confusingly similar COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks. These defendants' unlawful acts are intended to capitalize on Plaintiffs' goodwill for these defendants' own pecuniary gain.
- 169. These defendants' use of the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks is calculated to and is likely to create confusion and to deceive and mislead consumers into believing that the Infringing Websites originated with or are authorized by Plaintiffs, and is likely to cause confusion as to the source of the content of the Infringing Websites, all to the detriment of Plaintiffs.
- 170. These defendants' acts as alleged herein constitute unfair competition and will, unless enjoined by the Court, continue to result in harm to the goodwill associated with the KANYE WEST mark.

- 171. Upon information and belief, these defendants committed the acts alleged herein willfully and with the intent to confuse the public and to injure Plaintiffs.
- 172. The acts of these defendants have caused and are causing great and irreparable harm and damage to Plaintiffs, and unless permanently restrained and enjoined by this Court, such irreparable harm will continue.
- 173. As a direct and proximate result of these defendants' actions as stated herein, Mr. West has suffered damage to his reputation and damage to the goodwill of the KANYE WEST mark. Further, Plaintiffs are entitled to exemplary damages as a result of these defendants' malicious actions as described above.

# PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request judgment against Defendants, Contributory Defendants, Bravo and Dogecoin and their respective partners, agents, employees and attorneys, and any and all persons in active concert or participation with Defendants, Contributory Defendants, Bravo or Dogecoin and each of their heirs, executors, administrators, successors, licensees, assigns, subsidiaries, parents, affiliates, divisions, co-venturers, partners, officers, directors, employees, agents, shareholders, managers, business managers, accountants, attorneys, representatives, consultants and any and all other persons, corporations or other entities acting under the supervision, direction, control or on behalf of any of the foregoing as follows:

1. Preliminarily and permanently enjoining Defendants, Contributory Defendants, Bravo and Dogecoin and their respective partners, agents, employees and attorneys, and any and all other persons in active concert or participation with Defendants, Contributory Defendants, Bravo and/or Dogecoin and each of their heirs, executors, administrators, successors, licensees,

assigns, subsidiaries, parents, affiliates, divisions, co-venturers, partners, officers, directors, employees, agents, shareholders, managers, business managers, accountants, attorneys, representatives, consultants and any and all other persons, corporations or other entities acting under the supervision, direction, control or on behalf of any of the foregoing from (a) registering. operating, maintaining or using any website, blog, or Internet domain name or domain that uses the KANYE WEST mark, COINYE WEST mark, COINYE mark, COYE mark, or any colorable imitation of the marks KANYE WEST or KANYE, including but not limited to <coinyewest.com>, <coinyeco.in>, <coinyefaucet.com>, <buycoinye.com>, <coinyecoin.org>, <coinyecoin.com>, <coinyechain.info>, <coinyecasino.com>, <coinyecasino.l8.lv>, <coinyeexchange.com>, <minecoinye.com>, <coinyemining.com>, <coinvegames.com>. <coinyewallet.com>, <coinyestore.com>, <buycoinyes.com>, <buycoinye.net>, coinye.com>, <br/>betcoinye.com>, <coinyespin.com>, <coinyeroulette.com>, <coinyegambling.com>, <coinyepoker.com>, <coinye-dice.com>, <coinvedice.com>. <getcoinye.com>, <coinyeshop.com>, <freecoinye.com>, and <fuckcoinye.com>; (b) registering, operating and maintaining an "alt coin" digital currency or cryptocurrency site or network that uses the KANYE WEST mark, COINYE WEST mark, COINYE mark, COYE mark, or any colorable imitation of the marks KANYE WEST or KANYE, including, but not limited to, those contained in <coinyewest.com>, <coinyeco.in>, <coinyefaucet.com>, <buyeninye.com>, <coinyecoin.org>, <coinyecoin.com>, <coinyechain.info>, <coinyecasino.l8.lv>, <coinye-exchange.com>, <coinyecasino.com>, <minecoinye.com>, <coinyemining.com>, <coinyegames.com>, <coinyewallet.com>, <coinyestore.com>, <buycoinyes.com>, <buycoinye.net>, <buy-coinye.com>, <betcoinyes.com>, <coinyespin.com>, <coinyeroulette.com>, <coinyegambling.com>, <coinyepoker.com>, <coinye-dice.com>,

<coinyedice.com>, <getcoinye.com>, <coinyeshop.com>, <freecoinye.com>, and <fuckcoinye.com>; (c) engaging in the operation, exchange, sale, mining, transfer, purchase, storage or other use in commerce of an alt coin digital or cryptocurrency bearing any photographs or the name or likeness of Mr. West in any manner that is likely to cause confusion, mistake or to deceive the public into believing that the operation, exchange, sale, mining, transfer, purchase, storage or other use in commerce of the alt coin digital or cryptocurrency by Defendants originated with Mr. West or that there is any affiliation or connection between Plaintiffs and the operation, exchange, sale, mining, transfer, purchase, storage or other use in commerce of an alt coin digital or crypto currency by Defendants, and from otherwise competing unfairly with Plaintiffs; (d) assisting, aiding or abetting any other person or entity in the operation, exchange, sale, mining, transfer, purchase, storage or other use in commerce of an alt coin digital or cryptocurrency bearing COINYEWEST, COINYE or COYE as a trade name, trademark, brand name, as an Internet domain name, as a digital currency name, as a cryptocurrency, as an alt coin name, or in any other source-identifying manner; (e) using the KANYE WEST mark, or any other mark, term or title confusingly similar to the KANYE WEST mark, including, but not limited to, the COINYE WEST, COINYE and COYE marks; (f) using any photographs, videos or the name or likeness of Mr. West in any manner that is likely to cause confusion, mistake or to deceive the public into believing that any website or domain registered by Defendants, Contributory Defendants, Bravo or Dogecoin originate with Plaintiffs or that there is any affiliation or connection between Plaintiffs and the websites, and from otherwise competing unfairly with Plaintiffs; and (g) representing by any means whatsoever, directly or indirectly, or doing any other acts or things calculated or likely to cause confusion, mistake or to deceive the public into believing that any goods or services, or website or domain

registered by Defendants, Contributory Defendants, Bravo or Dogecoin originate with Plaintiffs or that there is any affiliation or connection between Plaintiffs and the websites, and from otherwise competing unfairly with Plaintiffs;

- 2. Awarding Plaintiffs damages in amount to be determined at trial, including compensatory, statutory damages and punitive damages;
- 3. Awarding an accounting to Plaintiffs for the gains and profits of all defendants and for the damages sustained by Plaintiffs as a result of the willful, intentional and wrongful conduct of all defendants;
- 4. Awarding Plaintiffs treble damages on account of the willful nature of all defendants' infringing acts for an amount to be determined at trial;
- 5. Requiring all defendants to pay Plaintiffs their costs in this action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and
- 6. Granting Plaintiffs such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York January 13, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

PRYOR CASHMAN LLP

Brad D. Rose (BR-2740)

Dyan Finguerra-DuCharme (DF-9228)

Madelon A. Gauthier (MG-4687)

Ryan S. Klarberg (RK-4719)

Pryor Cashman LLP

7 Times Square

New York, New York 10036

Telephone: (212) 421-4100

Fax. (212) 326-0806

brose@pryorcashman.com

dfinguerra-ducharme@pryorcashman.com

mgauthier@pryorcashman.com

rklarberg@pryorcashman.com

Attorneys for Plaintiffs Kanye West and Mascotte Holdings, Inc.